GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:384
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2006
REVIVAL OF DEFUNCT FLYING SCHOOLS/ INSTITUTES
Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government has drawn up any long-term measures to tackle the acute shortage of pilots in the public sector airlines;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) Whether the Government is disincline in taking pilots who retired from the Indian Air Force to fly commercial aircraft of Indian Airlines and Air India;

(d) If so, the reasons therefor;

(e) Whether there is any proposal to revive the 15-odd flying schools/institutes in the country which have become defunct over the years ;

(f) If so, the details thereof ;

(g) Whether many of the flying schools/institutes in the country do not have even trainer aircraft; and

(h) If so, the concrete steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION(SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) and (b):- The national carriers have been recruiting from time to time trainee pilots and cadet pilots from Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) as well as other flying clubs to meet their requirements. Government has decided to upgrade IGRUA to provide 100 pilots per year as against the present capacity of 40. With the increased demand of pilot in recent times, Air India has decided to recruit about 150 Science and Engineering graduates to be recruited as cadet pilots in Air India. A new flying training institute is also proposed to be set up by Airports Authority of India with a Joint Venture Partner at Gondia, Maharashtra.The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has also taken steps to meet shortage of pilots by increasing the age-limit of pilots to 65 years for exercising the privileges of their licences for commercial transport operations under prescribed conditions for pilots.

(c):- No, Sir.

(d):- Does not arise.

(e) and (f):- No, Sir. The Flying Clubs in the country are not under the direct control of Government. The non -operational flying clubs would need to take steps as are necessary for their revival.

(g)and (h):- No, Sir. Most of the flying clubs have aircraft given to them by Government of India through Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Aero Club of India (ACI) or procured themselves/through State Governments. Aero Club of India (ACI) and DGCA have been providing aircraft to the flying clubs operating, on no profit no loss basis, subject to availability. In the Annual Plan 2006-07 a provision of Rs. 12.79 crores has been made for releasing as Grants- in -Aid to ACI for procurement of aircraft for allotment to identified needy flying clubs which are approved by DGCA for conducting flying training for Commercial Pilot Licence.